

# Letters to the Editor

## Be It Resolved...

Editor,

"Be it resolved that in future articles of the *Panther Prints*, journalists get their facts straight and refrain from the all out bashing of the Student Union that was exhibited in the March 26 issue."

As two concerned students, we were disappointed in the quality of journalism displayed in the article "Council kills CIMN." Not only was there factual misinterpretation, there was also a convenient absence of the reasoning behind council's decision to cut funding from CIMN. The only explanation given in the article was the possible liability of the Student Union Executive. The author failed to mention the seriousness of this issue. According to CIMN's constitution, the four members of the Student Union Executive are in fact their board of directors. This means that if a problem with CIMN were to arise, the Student Union would be financially and legally responsible. This issue becomes even more serious when coupled with the fact that CIMN does not even follow their legally binding constitution.

The debate over the constitution was made light of by Wayne Mason, an individual who does not attend UPEI, and only addressed council as a guest speaker for CIMN. He argued that "minor changes to the board of directors structure would eliminate this possible problem." However, the Student Union had already considered this option, and through consultations with the Student Union General Manager, had found it to be an unrealistic solution.

Our main problem with the article was its complete bias towards CIMN. We believed that the function of the *Panther Prints* was to inform, not brainwash. Give students a little more respect. Given all the information, we are intelligent enough to make our own decisions.

And in regards to Finley Martin's statement at the March 24th meeting, yes, we do call ourselves a f---ing council.

-- Making our minds up for ourselves.

## Profs Respond to Poll

Dear Editor,

We would have preferred to let the controversy play itself out among students in the student newspaper: especially since the *Panther Prints* has taken so much heat -- some undeserved -- already. However, the last issue included an explicit invitation to the professors named to respond to the "Sexiest Prof" poll. Our sense is that if we do not respond, our silence will be taken as agreement with the paper's position. Please forgive us for submitting this letter late. (Professors too have trouble sometimes with deadlines.)

So, yes, the "Sexiest Prof" poll was inappropriate; yes, we were embarrassed; yes, we wish it had not happened; and yes, we hope it will not happen again.

We know how much hard work goes into producing a student newspaper, however, and we are sure that no harm was intended; we look forward to future issues.

Best wishes,  
Dr. S. Murray  
Dr. I. Gammel  
Dr. N. Neatby

*Ed. Note: Thank you for expressing your objections. I would like to apologize to all professors who feel offended by the "Sexiest Prof" poll. The paper plans to change the format and polling methods next year, which should satisfy everyone's concerns.*

## Access-Ability Info Questioned

I am writing this article in response to the article entitled "Information from the Access-Ability committee" which appeared in the March 26 issue.

I am a disabled person and I have been disabled since birth, I have spent the last sixteen years as a wheelchair user and as such I feel that it is my responsibility to calm some of the fears and correct some of the misconceptions which I feel the article conveys.

First of all, I commend the efforts of the committee, whose initiative will improve the accessibility and add to the enjoyment of the campus for all users, disabled or not.

For me being disabled means not being able to do something that I need to do right now. If my activities are such that my lack of ability does not come into focus for one minute, hour, or day then I am not disabled for that amount of time. My apartment is designed in such a way as to virtually eliminate my disability. Its design does not preclude a non-disabled user.

I come now to that part of the article

which I find most alarming and confusing which will hereafter be referred to as "the list".

As previously noted for me having a disability means not being able to do something right now and being disabled mean "finding another way" to go about the activities of everyday life. On entering the *Panther Prints* office I noticed some vending machines -- it occurred to me that a person who wished to buy a product must use coins. Being in possession of only paper money makes that person disabled until he gets some change.

I find parts of the list confusing. If I had the occasion to use the services of an architect or a lawyer it would not occur to me to enquire whether or not that person is disabled and it would not say in the phone book. If he or she designed a home for me and it satisfied my need the wheelchair would make no difference. If I want to know what someone is called, I ask them their name -- disabled or not.

Sincerely,  
Bernie Wilson



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